

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1–13 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 USC sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Attached hereto as an Appendix entitled “Version with Markings Showing Changes Made,” is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this Amendment.

Claims 1–13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bond-Harris et al. (U.S. Patent 5,990,972) in view of Yoshio et al. (U.S. Patent 6,215,952). Bond-Harris teaches transmitting a short audio/video “clip” which is stored in a set-top box and played on a continuous loop as a background when menus are displayed, thereby giving the appearance of a continuous data flow into the set-top box. Yoshio teaches a method of recording data on a DVD to restrict/control access to certain reproduction operations. By contrast, the present invention is a menu control apparatus that displays a transition video after an operation is selected but before the operation is executed.

For at least the following reasons, Bond-Harris and Yoshio fail to render the present invention obvious. The present invention displays menus wherein the menus are “determined at least in part on the basis of previously selected operations.” (Claims 1, 8, and 11) The Examiner asserts that Yoshio meets the present invention’s display menu limitation at Column 1, Lines 9–18. (Office Action page 2) However, Yoshio does not disclose a display menu or equivalent at the cited location. Although Yoshio does discuss presentation control information (PCI) for controlling a display (at Column 12, Lines 18–33), Yoshio does not disclose that the PCI or the display is “determined at least in part on the basis of previously selected operations.” (see e.g. Column 12, Lines 34–37) The present invention also “display[s] a predetermined response picture when the operation of said menu button on said menu is selected, thereby indicating a transition between said menu and the selected operation.” (Claims 8 and 11) The Examiner contends that Yoshio discloses “displaying a predetermined response picture” at Column 12, Lines 11–44. (Office Action page 2) However, Yoshio simply discloses selecting a selection item (i.e. menu button) and executing a corresponding command. While the present invention’s response picture data could be used within Yoshio’s framework to transition between a selection and subsequent command execution, Yoshio himself does not describe the use of response picture data for such transitioning. Further, the present invention has response display data “which provides instructions for displaying the response picture data.” (Claims 1, 8 and 11) The Examiner concedes that “Yoshio fails to explicitly teach response display data.” (Office Action page 3) Hence, the Examiner relies on Bond-Harris’ script packets to meet this limitation. (Column 4, Lines 14–67; Column 5, Lines 10–47) However, Bond-Harris’ script packets simply provide foreground text and instructions for displaying the text over a continuously running “clip.” (Column 4, Lines 43–49) By contrast, the present invention only displays the response

picture data in response to a selection. Hence, Bond-Harris provides instructions for displaying an audio/video clip in the background during the display of a menu; whereas the present invention displays a video as a transition after an item has been selected from a menu.


Therefore, for at least these reasons, Bond-Harris and Yoshio fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
(212) 588-0800



Appendix
Version with Markings Showing Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 8 and 11 as follows:

—8. (Three times amended) A menu control method for controlling a menu of operations for operating a disk recording medium, the menu being displayed on a screen, including the steps of:

displaying said menu including at least one menu button for selecting an operation of said disk recording medium, the displayed menu being determined at least in part on the basis of previously selected operations;

displaying a predetermined response picture when the operation of said menu button on said menu is selected, thereby indicating a transition between said menu and the selected operation;

providing instructions in accordance with response display data for displaying the response picture data; and

executing the selected operation of said menu button after said response picture is displayed.—

—11. (Three times amended) A menu control apparatus for controlling a menu of operations for operating a disk recording medium, the menu being displayed on a screen, comprising:

a menu display means for displaying said menu including at least one menu button for selecting an operation of said disk recording medium, the displayed menu being determined at least in part on the basis of previously selected operations;

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a response picture display means for displaying a predetermined response picture when the operation of said menu button on said menu is selected, thereby indicating a transition between said menu and the selected operation;

means for providing instructions in accordance with response display data for displaying the response picture data; and

a means for executing the selected operation of said menu button after said response picture is displayed by said response picture display means.—